



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

May 25, 2004

Tim McDonald, RS, MPH
Health Services Director
Island County Health Department
P.O. Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239

Dear Mr. McDonald:

I am pleased to offer my support for your grant proposal to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We understand you are applying to the CDC for funding under "*Delivering Environmental Health Services*" (Program Announcement 04113).

As part of a State Board of Health project exploring community environmental health assessment processes, environmental health prioritization and community involvement processes, I identified the Island County Environmental Health Assessment Team (EHAT) as a best practice in Washington State. I interviewed members of the EHAT, observed two EHAT meetings, and presented with Island County Health Department Environmental Health Director Keith Higman at the Washington State Environmental Health Association 2004 conference, and the 2002 and 2003 Joint Conference on Health.

As staff to a state policy making board, I recognize the value of a coordinated approach to addressing environmental health issues within Washington communities. The EHAT provides a forum for community members to identify and discuss environmental health issues, to exchange scientific information and develop local priorities. It facilitates communication of community perceptions, concerns and values to local and state policy makers, so their decisions better reflect the communities they serve.

I would be very pleased to hear you were selected to receive a CDC grant to fund your project and to continue enhancing environmental health services within Island County. This would also benefit other health departments and communities, as an important example of how a health department and community members can work together to improve their understanding and management of environmental health issues.

Sincerely,

Marianne Seifert, MA
Health Policy Advisor

cc: Carl Osaki, Washington State Board of Health Environmental Health Committee
Keith Higman, Island County Health Department
Tom Baxter, Island County EHAT Chair